

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

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AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL  
ENTERPRISES, INC., d/b/a THE  
SAFETYHOUSE.COM,

Plaintiff,

v.

MANFRED STERNBERG, ESQUIRE, and  
MANFRED STERNBERG & ASSOCIATES, PC,  
and CHARLTON HOLDINGS GROUP, LLC, and  
SHLOMO GROSS a/k/a SAMUEL GROSS, and  
GARY WEISS, and A.SOLAR, LLC, and  
DAPHNA ZEKARIA, ESQUIRE, and  
SOKOLSKI & ZEKARIA, P.C.

Defendants

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CIVIL ACTION

No. 2:22-CV-0688 (JMY)

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**MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER OF DEFENDANTS, DAPHNA ZEKARIA,  
ESQUIRE, and SOKOLSKI & ZEKARIA, P.C.**

AND NOW, Rebar Kelly, files this within Motion with this Honorable Court for a Protective Order, and in support thereof states as follows:

1. Plaintiffs initiated this action by filing a Complaint on or about February 23, 2022.
2. The Movant in this matter is Rebar Kelly, who has been representing the Daphna Zekaria and Sokolski & Zekaria, P.C. (hereinafter “Zekaria Defendants”) in this action.
3. Defendant, Daphna Zekaria is an adult individual.
4. Defendant, Sokolski & Zekaria, P.C., is a Professional Corporation established and operating under the laws of the State of New York.
5. On April 12, 2024, Rebar Kelly filed a Motion to Withdraw as counsel for the Zekaria Defendants. (See ECF Doc. 163)

6. On April 25, 2024, this Court issued a Order scheduling a hearing on this Motion for Thursday, June 13, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. (See ECF Document 165, attached hereto as ***Exhibit “A”***).

7. In addition for the reasons set forth in the original Motion to Withdraw, the Zekaria Defendants have also not fully paid Rebar Kelly for the legal services rendered on their behalf on this within matter.

8. Despite the scheduling of the hearing on the Motion to Withdraw and despite knowing that Rebar Kelly is not being paid, Plaintiffs’ counsel has unilaterally scheduled the depositions of the Zekaria defendants on two occasions, May 14 and May 28, 2024. See ***Exhibit “B”***, pp. 001, 004-005.

9. When the depositions were noticed, undersigned counsel informed Plaintiff’s counsel that he was not available for depositions on either day. *Id.*, pp. 002 and 006.

10. Despite the pendency of the hearing on the Motion to Withdraw and the fact that Rebar Kelly, and the fact that Rebar Kelly is not being paid for its legal services, counsel for Plaintiff has threatened Motion practice if the Zekaria defendants do not appear for depositions.

11. Under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court “may for good cause, issue an order to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or expense.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c)(1). *Fraternal Ord. of Police Pennsylvania Lodge v. Twp. of Springfield*, 668 F. Supp. 3d 375, 384 (E.D. Pa. 2023)

12. Given the above facts, good cause exists for the granting of this protective order, as it would be an undue burden and expense to the Zekaria defendants and Rebar Kelly to appear for depositions while the Motion to Withdraw as counsel is pending.

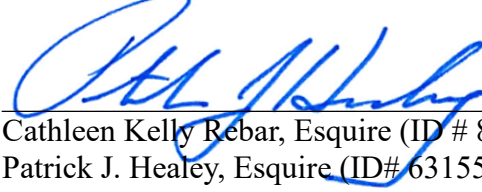
13. This case has not been scheduled for trial.

14. All counsel and parties have been served with this Motion.

15. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Court enter an Order preventing any party from noticing the depositions of the Zekaria defendants and/or conducting any discovery against the Zekaria defendants until a decision is made on the pending Motion to Withdraw.

**Respectfully submitted**

**REBAR KELLY**



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Attorneys for Defendants, Daphna Zekaria,  
Esquire and Sokolski & Zekaria, P.C.

**DATE: May 23, 2024**